(iii) The present service conditions will remain as they are till the service period of the workers. The workers will not be retrenched.

(iv) The welfare facilities like medical, LTC, canteen, conveyance allowance would be continued as before.

(v) The present voluntary retirement scheme will continue as it is.

(vi) The retirement age of employees will remain as 60 years.

(c) The Memorandum of Understanding is being implemented by the company.

Losses Suffered by SAIL

*9. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state: -

(a) whether it is a fact that after a loss of Rs. 1,700 crore in 1999-2000, SAIL has cut its losses to Rs. 700 crore in 2000-2001;

(b) whether this loss is despite the fact that the production of steel increased by 11 per cent to 29.70 million tonnes in 2000-2001; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this sustained loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has cut down its losses to Rs. 7.29 crore (Prov.) in 2000-01 against the loss of Rs. 1720 crores in 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The production of saleable steel of SAIL was 9.703 million tonnes in 2000-01 which is about 2% higher over previous year.

The reasons for SAIL's continuing losses are—

*Stagnation in steel consumption consequent to general slow down in the economy;

*Low sales realization resulting from excess in the market;

*Sluggish exports due to anti-dumping action abroad;

*High capital investment in the modernization projects leading to increased expenditures on interest and depreciation; and

*High manpower costs.

Theft at Medical store in Safdarjung Hospital

*10. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether robbers struck at the medical store, situated on the second floor of the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, in early June, 2001, and escaped with expensive life saving drugs and surgical equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the extent of financial loss suffered due to the theft;

(c) whether any enquiry has been initiated to go into the circumstances under which the robbers got entry into the hospital despite tight security cover there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action Government propose to take to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) A theft occurred in Surgical Expendable Store situated on 3rd floor of Safdarjung Hospital on 28/29th May, 2001.

(b) Goods amounting to Rs. 2,23,480/- have been lost due to the theft. A statement indicating details of goods and amount thereof is annexed. (*see* below)

(c) and (d) (i) A preliminary enquiry has been conducted. The officials who were handling the stores have been transferred. The matter has been reported to the Sarojini Nagar Police Station for investigation on 29.5.2001.

(ii) A Chief Medical Officer has been deputed to ensure and check that the stores are properly locked after the closing hour along with the concerned security guards.